



#A/5/C  
Harry  
PATENT  
Dec. 15, 01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Re Application of:

SUNDREHAGEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/417,226

Filed: October 13, 1999

For: ASSAY

Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: J. Hines

**RECEIVED**

DEC 13 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of June 8, 2001, in connection with the above-identified application. The period for response to this Official Action has been extended to expire on December 8, 2001, by the filing herewith of a petition for a three month extension of time and payment of the required fee.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

Sub D  
C  
1(Thrice amended). An assay method for the determination of holo-transcobalamin II (holo-TC II) in a body sample, comprising contacting a cell free sample of a body fluid with an immobilised or immobilizable specific binding ligand for transcobalamin II (TC II) or holo-transcobalamin II (holo-TC II), separating a ligand bound fraction from a non-ligand bound fraction, releasing cobalamin in the ligand bound fraction into a volume of liquid which is at least 3 times less than the volume of said cell free sample, to provide a cobalamin containing liquid wherein the cobalamin concentration is at least 3 times the holo-TC II concentration in said cell free sample of